

U.S. Department of Labor

**Employment & Training Administration
Office of Job Corps
61 Forsyth Street
Room 6T95
Atlanta, GA 30303**



**For Immediate Release
March 09, 2004**

CONTACT:

**Eris Beasley
Student Personnel Officer
Montgomery Job Corps Center
(334) 262-8883**

**Alicia Gay
McNeely Pigott & Fox
(615) 259-4000**

MONTGOMERY JOB CORPS CENTER WINS WEB DESIGN CONTEST
Student Government Association Awarded \$500 For Submitting Winning Design

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The Montgomery Job Corps Center recently won first place in the Job Corps Atlanta Region Web Site Contest. The center will receive \$500 for its Student Government Association (SGA) fund during a ceremony for the students at the center on Thursday, March 11, at 2:30 p.m.

Each of the 19 centers in the region was asked to submit a student-designed SGA Web site. The sites were judged on navigability, creativity and quality of presentation and information.

Jacksonville Job Corps Center in Jacksonville, Fla., and Turner Job Corps Center, in Albany, Ga., finished in second and third places respectively.

The Montgomery SGA students designed their Web site to highlight the mission and activities of the center and their organization.

“There is a feeling here that Montgomery is the Cadillac of Job Corps centers,” said Eris Beasley, the center’s student personnel officer. “The SGA wanted to communicate that idea through their Web site and, they have done an excellent job of showcasing the center.”

Job Corps Southeast regional director Don Scott believes that the project was all about students’ taking the initiative to create something meaningful and useful for the greater community.

“The Montgomery center and all of the other centers that participated in this competition are using the Web to tell the story of what Job Corps did for them and what it can do for other people. I am very proud of what they have accomplished,” Scott said.

-more-

Montgomery Job Corps students receive basic computer and Web instruction as part of their general vocational training. Students who choose to pursue the business technology trade have the option to obtain more in-depth instruction.

Seventeen-year-old SGA President, Shalonda Williams a business technology student from Chicago admitted that she had little experience with Web design in the past.

“This was my first time working on a Web site,” Williams said. “The center’s computer specialist, Valerie Allen, stayed after-hours in the evening to work with me and to teach me as much as she could, so that I would be able to prepare for this contest.”

Williams and SGA Web committee co-chair Summer Bell, a 22-year-old native of Hattiesburg, Miss., went on to lead the students through this project, soliciting design and content ideas from other members and then implementing the ideas as part of the site.

The site caught the attention of Eddie Williams, Montgomery’s center director.

“When they showed me the site prior to submitting it, I was very surprised and pleased with the quality of it,” Williams said. “I really expected just a few pictures and some text. What the students produced is an active site that is very much alive.”

Fittingly, the SGA plans to use the \$500 prize to purchase a new computer. Any remaining funds will be used to support SGA activities which include: hosting social functions on center, tutoring children and helping with community service projects.

“This year’s group has really set the tone for future SGA’s,” Beasley said. “We’ll definitely be back for next year’s Web competition.”

All of the Web sites that were submitted for consideration in the competition will be available on the Region’s Web site at www.jobcorpsregion3.com.

Established in 1964, Job Corps is the nation’s oldest and largest job-training program, annually serving 70,000 participants ages 16 through 24. A federal program, its goal is to help economically disadvantaged youth find promising careers by providing comprehensive services in a residential setting, including education, vocational skills training and counseling.

Job Corps Atlanta Region, headquartered in Atlanta, administers 19 training centers and oversees outreach and career transition services for students in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Alabama has two centers, Montgomery Job Corps Center and Gadsden Job Corps Center. The Montgomery center is located at 1145 Air Base Boulevard, Montgomery, AL 36108

For more information, call (800) 733-JOBS or visit the Job Corps Atlanta Region Web site at www.jobcorpsregion3.com.

###